



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 11, 1999

H.R. 17 **Selective Agricultural Embargoes Act of 1999**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations on June 10, 1999

H.R. 17 would establish procedures for the Congress to approve or disapprove agricultural embargoes imposed by the President that are not part of an embargo on all exports to a particular country or countries. The President would be required to report such embargoes to the Congress. Except in cases of war or national emergency, H.R. 17 would require that an embargo be terminated within a year after the Congress approves it or within 100 days of the report if the Congress disapproves it. The bill also would apply certain contract sanctity requirements that are already in effect for agricultural commodities to plant nutrient materials.

If new embargoes are imposed, the bill could affect direct spending because embargoes might end and programs to guarantee export loans might resume earlier than under current law. However, CBO has no basis for estimating the potential budgetary impact of these provisions because we cannot predict the likelihood or extent of future embargoes, or of future Congressional action to approve or disapprove of such embargoes.

Because the bill could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. H.R. 17 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On February 19, 1999, CBO prepared a similar cost estimate for H.R. 17, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on February 10, 1999. The two versions of the bill are identical.

The CBO contacts for this estimate are Craig Jagger and Dave Hull. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.